Nixon's strange psychological need to seem to be the boss and on top of everything, to appear to be important in all events, whether minor or significant, is manifest in the fable of his "missing" reels of icnriminating tape. Thus the AP's story on these supposedly mysterious disappearnaces for morning papers of November 2 begins,"The person who first suspected that a critical Watergate conversation was missing from a White House tape was President Nixon himself, presidential lawyer J. Fred Buxhardt said Thursday." This was refuted November 2 in the testimony of Nixon Staffer Steve Bull, but until then the radio and TV welkin rang with accounts of the President as a great investigator and the man with the all-seeing mind, the one who could anticipate the seemingly impossible. The truth is that both Nixon and Bull had known for a long time and kept it secret from the deliberating courts. Had the courts ruled in Nixon's favor, the inherently incredible story would not have had to be sworn to in court and the fact that incriminating evidence had been memory-holed would have remained secret.

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